IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: OKI, Kazuo et al.

Conf.:

Appl. No.:

New

Group:

Filed:

December 18, 2001

Examiner:

For:

BASE PARTICLES AND DETERGENT PARTICLES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

December 18, 2001

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

7. (Amended) Detergent particles comprising the base particles of claim 1 or 2.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to delete improper multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

1422-0511P

JWB/cqc

(Rev. 09/27/01)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) Detergent particles comprising the base particles of [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1 or 2.